

National Centre of Biography

National Centre of **Biography News**

May 2025

Australian

The NCB News is the monthly newsletter of the National Centre of Biography. Got biographical news to share? Send us an email at ncb@anu.edu.au.



The Australian Crowd, by Stephen Baxter (2014)



Biography in Peru

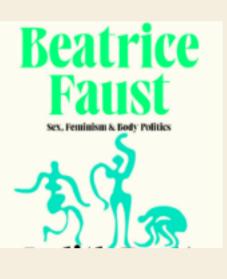
NCB director Professor Melanie Nolan has been talking biography in

Lima, Peru.

On Wednesday 7 May she gave a talk on 'The role of biographies in history' to an interdisciplinary group, the Departamento de Humanidades (Department of Humanities) at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Pontifical Catholic University of Peru). Two literary scholars, Francesca Denegri and Daniella Wurst, were commentators.

Melanie spoke about the wider changes in the landscape in which historians write biography, and of course discussed concise biography and the ADB. You can watch the recording online if you want to hear more.

News & notices



Meet the author

As part of the ANU/Canberra Times 'Meet the author' series, on Wednesday 14 May Emeritus Professor Judith Brett will be in conversation with Virginia Haussegger on her new biography Fearless Beatrice Faust: Sex, Feminism and Body Politics (Text Publishing, 2025). <u>Register</u> to attend now.



ANU Archives lecture 2025

This year's annual ANU Archives Lecture will be given by Professor Brenda L. Croft (ANU) on 'The long journeys of "Handsome" Joe Croft, father and son.' In this talk Brenda will draw on her engagement with archives and understanding of personal and family history in her story of the long journeys of 'Handsome' Joe Croft-the sobriquet shared by her grandfather and father. Wednesday 28 May, 5.30-7pm. Register to attend here.



Biography workshop

On Thursday 29 May Associate Professor Rebe Taylor (UTAS) will present on 'Women at the edge of the world: human extinction discourse history and historiography.' Check the event page for more details.

*Please note this workshop will be held online only

Read, listen, learn





Congratulations to friend of the NCB, Sita Sergeant, on the publication of <u>She Shapes History: City Walks</u> and Stories About Great Australian Women (Hardie Grant, 2025). In this travel guide Sita shares stories of Australian women from across the country. If you're in Canberra, Sydney or Melbourne, check out her tour <u>company</u> of the same name, too!



'We are a farming class'

A reminder that Dr Peter Woodley's debut book, 'We are a farming class': Dubbo's hinterland, 1870-1950, is out now with ANU Press. You can download or order a copy via the website.

The Wild Australia Show

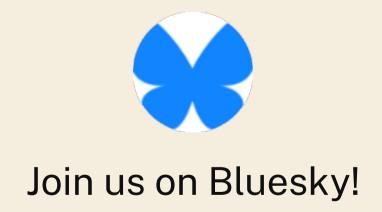


Forthcoming with ANU Press is The Wild Australia Show: The Story of an Aboriginal Performance Troupe and its Afterlives. While you wait for its release, you can read an essay written by the book's authors for the Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography on the same topic.

Biography podcast



In the latest episode of *Biographers in Conversation*, Professor Kate Fullagar discusses the choices she made while crafting *Bennelong & Phillip: A History* Unravelled with NCB visitor Dr Gabriella Kelly-Davies. <u>Listen</u> now.



Did you know the *ADB* is now on Bluesky? Follow us at <u>@ausdictionarybiog.bsky.social</u>

ADB feature entry

Each month we highlight a new addition to the Australian Dictionary of *Biography*. This month it's children's author and artist, Sheila Hawkins (1905-1999).

Alongside having a fascinating career, Hawkins was a real personality: 'eccentric, chronically honest, and, to those who could cope with that honesty, a deeply loyal friend.'

Read the entry, written by Dr Emily Gallagher, <u>online</u> now.





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The Australian National University acknowledges, celebrates and pays our respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the Canberra region and to all First Nations Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.